

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 58. (Cancelled)

59. (New) A system for securely configuring at least one remote gateway server, the system comprising:

an administration machine structured to create, update, and maintain a configuration data file,

the administration machine comprising a storage device structured to temporarily store the configuration data file,

the administration machine further structured to access, compress, and encrypt the configuration data file to generate an encrypted file,

the administration machine further comprising a network interface structured to interface with a network,

the network interface comprising at least one inbound communication port and at least one outbound communication port, wherein an inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the administrative machine and an outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the administrative machine,

the administrative machine further structured to transmit the

encrypted file to a remote email server through the at least one outbound communication port,

a remote email server structured to receive the encrypted file from the administration machine and to temporarily store the encrypted file,

a remote gateway server comprising a remote network interface structured to interface with the network,

the remote network interface comprising at least one remote inbound communication port and at least one remote outbound communication port, wherein a remote inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the remote gateway server and a remote outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the remote gateway server,

the remote network interface is further structured to retrieve the encrypted file from the remote email server through the at least one remote outbound communication port of the remote gateway server, wherein no remote inbound communication port is open at the remote gateway server to receive the encrypted file from the remote email server,

the remote gateway server further comprising a remote storage device to store the encrypted file,

the remote gateway server structured to access the encrypted file from the remote storage device and decrypt the encrypted file to generate a decrypted configuration data file, and

the remote gateway server further structured to reconfigure at

least one configuration parameter of the remote gateway server in accordance with the decrypted configuration data file.

60. (New) The system as recited in claim 59 wherein the network interface is further structured to transmit the encrypted file to the remote email server through the at least one outbound communication port of the administrative machine via standard mail transfer protocol.

61. (New) The system as recited in claim 59 wherein the remote network interface is further structured to retrieve the encrypted file from the remote email server through the at least one remote outbound communication port of the remote gateway server via standard mail transfer protocol.

62. (New) The system as recited in claim 59 wherein the network interface is further structured such that no inbound communication port is open at the administrative machine to transmit the encrypted file to the remote email server.

63. (New) The system as recited in claim 59 wherein the remote gateway server is further structured to periodically poll the remote email server to identify an encrypted file to be retrieved from the remote email server by the remote gateway server.

64. (New) A secure system for communicating with at least one remote network device, comprising:

a remote staging platform structured to receive and temporarily store at least one file,

a remote network device structured to retrieve the at least

one file from the remote staging platform in response to a polling of the remote staging platform by the at least one remote network device,

the remote network device comprising at least one remote inbound communication port and at least one remote outbound communication port, wherein a remote inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the remote network device and a remote outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the remote network device,

the remote network device further structured to retrieve the at least one file from the remote staging platform through the at least one remote outbound communication port via standard mail transfer protocol,

the remote network device further structured such that no remote inbound communication port is open at the remote network device to receive the at least one file from the remote staging platform, and

the remote network device further structured to open and execute the at least one file.

65. (New) The system as recited in claim 64 further comprising an administrative site structured to transmit the at least one file to the remote staging platform via standard mail transfer protocol.

66. (New) the system as recited in claim 65 wherein the administrative site comprises at least one inbound communication port and at least one outbound communication port, wherein an

inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the administrative site and an outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the administrative site.

67. (New) The system as recited in claim 66 wherein the administrative site is further structured to transmit the at least one file to the remote staging platform through the at least one outbound communication port of the administrative site.

68. (New) The system as recited in claim 67 wherein the administrative site is further structured such that no inbound communication port is open at the administrative site to transmit the at least one file to the remote staging platform.

69. (New) The system as recited in claim 68 wherein no direct communication pathway is established between the administrative site and the remote network device to transmit or retrieve the at least one file via standard mail transfer protocol.

70. (New) The system as recited in claim 64 wherein the polling of the remote staging platform is performed periodically.

71. (New) A system for securely configuring at least one remote gateway server, the system comprising:

an administration machine structured to create, update, and maintain a configuration data file,

the administration machine comprising a storage device structured to store the configuration data file,

the administration machine further structured to access the configuration data file from the storage device, and to compress

and encrypt the configuration data file to produce an encrypted file,

the administration machine further comprising a network interface structured to interface with a network,

the network interface comprising at least one inbound communication port and at least one outbound communication port, wherein an inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the administrative machine and an outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the administrative machine,

the administrative machine further structured to transmit the encrypted file to a remote email server through the at least one outbound communication port via standard mail transfer protocol,

the network interface is further structured such that no inbound communication port is open at the administrative machine to transmit the encrypted file to the remote email server,

a remote email server structured to receive the encrypted file from the administration machine and to temporarily store the encrypted file,

a remote gateway server comprising a remote network interface structured to interface with the network,

the remote network interface comprising at least one remote inbound communication port and at least one remote outbound communication port, wherein a remote inbound communication port is structured to permit remote access to the remote gateway server and

a remote outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the remote gateway server,

the remote network interface structured to retrieve the encrypted file from the remote email server through the at least one remote outbound communication port of the remote gateway server via standard mail transfer protocol,

the remote network interface is further structured such that no remote inbound communication port is open at the remote gateway server to receive the encrypted file from the remote email server,

no direct communication pathway is established between the administrative machine and the remote gateway server to transmit or retrieve the at least one file with the email message via standard mail transfer protocol,

the remote gateway server further comprising a storage device to store the encrypted file,

the remote gateway server structured to access the encrypted file from the storage device and to decrypt the encrypted file to produce a decrypted configuration data file, and

the remote gateway server further structured to reconfigure at least one configuration parameter in accordance with the decrypted configuration data file.

72. (New) A method for securely configuring at least one remote gateway device comprising the steps of:

creating a configuration database file at an administrative site,

encrypting the configuration database file to produce an encrypted file,

transmitting the encrypted file from the administrative site to a remote email server via standard mail transfer protocol through at least one outbound communication port, wherein an outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the administrative site,

storing the encrypted file at least temporarily on the remote email server,

retrieving the encrypted file from the remote email server by a remote gateway device via standard mail transfer protocol through at least one remote outbound communication port of the remote gateway device, wherein a remote outbound communication port is structured to prevent remote access to the remote gateway device,

structuring the remote gateway device such that no remote inbound communication port permitting remote access to the remote gateway device is open to receive the encrypted file from the remote email server,

decrypting the encrypted file on the remote gateway device, and

reconfiguring at least one configuration parameter of the remote gateway device in accordance with the configuration data file.

73. (New) The method as recited in claim 72 further comprising the step of structuring the administrative site such that no inbound

communication port permitting remote access to the administrative site is open to transmit the encrypted file to the remote email server.

74. (New) The method as recited in claim 72 further comprising the step of structuring the administrative site and the remote gateway device such that no direct communication pathway is established between the administrative site and the remote gateway device to transmit the encrypted file to the remote email server or to retrieve the encrypted file from the remote email server.

75. (New) The method as recited in claim 72 further comprising the step of creating a confirmation message upon successful reconfiguration of the remote gateway server.

76. (New) The method as recited in claim 75 further comprising the step of transmitting the confirmation message from the remote gateway device to the remote email server through the at least one remote outbound communication port of the remote gateway device via standard mail transfer protocol.

77. (New) The method as recited in claim 76 further comprising the step of retrieving the confirmation message from the remote email server by the administrative site through the at least one outbound communication port of the administrative site via standard mail transfer protocol.

78. (New) The method as recited in claim 77 further comprising the steps of generating a configuration failure message at the administrative site when no confirmation message is retrieved from

the remote email server within a predetermined time period after transmittal of the encrypted file and transmitting the configuration failure message from the administrative site through the at least one outbound communication port to a remote gateway device manager via standard mail transfer protocol.